Organising of water resources month in Rajasthan

1800. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to organise water resources month instead of day particularly in the state of Rajasthan where there is acute scarcity of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir. The Water Resources Day is organised throughout the country sometime during April to June every year. The day is fixed locally depending on the local conditions and convenience. There is no proposal to organise Water Resources Month instead of a Water Resources Day.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The objective of the Water Resources Day is to make the people more conscious about the problems associated with the management of water and involve them in the deliberations on the important issues associated with the development and management of water resources. Organising a Water Resources Month will be an expensive affair and it is not likely to sustain the interest for so long a period as a month every year. Activities and functions planned for a day at different places have been found to be effective enough.

Aravalli Project in Rajasthan

1801. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the World Bank-aided Aravalli Project;

(b) the funds already received and additional funds likely to be received and time schedule therefor; and

(c) whether Government of Rajasthan have also submitted any further proposals in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no World Bank aided Aravalli Project implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture. However, there is a project, namely, "Afforestation Project in Aravalli Hills—State of Rajasthan" appraised by the OECF, Japan and implemented though the National Wasteland Development Board in the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The Project covering 10 districts of Rajasthan at a total cost of Rs. 166.9 crores is expected to start from 1992-93 over a period of over a five years.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Japanese help for Development of Desert in Rajasthan

1802. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan is helping India to convert the desert of Rajasthan into agricultural productive areas and also some steps have already been taken in advance to this effect;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the financial help likely to be extended by Government of Japan and the amount already received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project for afforestation and pasture development along Indira Gandhi Canal area in Rajasthan to arrest the wind erosion has been taken up from 5th February, 1991, with the assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan. Project covers 61400 ha. and includes works of canal side plantation, roadside plantation, sand-dune stabilisation, pasture development, block plantation, farm forestry, environmental plantation, creation of nurseries and research, training and monitering etc.